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TUESDAY
AUGUST 10, 1954

Park Armstrong came to see me this morning. He told me of the favorable developments in the tripartite arrangements between the U.S., U.K., and France on security observances, a subject in which I was once much interested. It seems the French have tightened up their procedures and things are going better.

Tommy reports that the Parodi scheme for a "little NATO" has been eliminated by Mendès. Mendès is carrying on his conversations in the greatest secrecy, which is unprecedented but good. There have been no reliable press leaks to disclose in any detail what he is discussing with his colleagues.

André de Staercke came to see me before lunch, much encouraged by a conversation which had just taken place between himself and de Seynes, who had come in from Marly on Mendès' orders, to see him. The deliberations on the EDC are taking place in the Prime Minister's house at Marly. It now looks as if Mendès has decided to propose nothing at Brussels which would require resubmission to the Parliaments of the signatory countries. This, if true, is a great step forward.

I also discussed with de Staercke Doc Matthews' excellent telegram from The Hague which expressed, on the part of Beyen, some doubt as to the wisdom of Spaak's views on a possible compromise with the French. Spaak has become nettled over the doubts expressed as to his attitude. I sent off the following message on this subject:

R.

"SENT: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 14.

"RPTD INFO: LONDON 131 EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR.
ROME 31 EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR.
BONN 88 EYES ONLY CONANT.
THE HAGUE 17 EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR.
BRUSSELS 23 EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR. DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
LUXEMBOURG 14 EYES ONLY MINISTER.

"LIMIT DISTRIBUTION.

"Paris Embtel 548, August 9.

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"After week end of conferences, situation today considerably improved. Do not want to enter into detail as proceedings are being kept very secret and are still fluid but will report fully later in week. However important point is that there is intense internal struggle between EDC proponents and adversaries, in which US Government cannot usefully intervene. What can be accomplished is, I think, being effectively done through intermediaries, and necessarily in most confidential manner.

"Re tel Hague 219 August 9 and references Paris Embtels 548 and 504, August 5, have had long talks with de Staercke on problem presented by alleged Spaak activities. Strongly advise Department not take any position in this regard and leave corrections to de Staercke who has already undertaken them in vigorous fashion. Spaak asserts deliberate misconstruction being applied his proposals designed to smooth path to favorable French decision EDC. He has become very sensitive over implications he too malleable, talkative or confused and can best be handled by methods now pursued.

"Hague telegram 219 most useful and illuminating. Essential Dutch maintain firm and skeptical attitude. Understand van Starkenborgh will attend Brussels meeting. This is very important and, lest there be any slip, would be advisable if Matthews finds tactful opportunity he make sure Starkenborgh's attendance.

"I expect to go with Tomlinson Baden Baden Monday meet Chancellor and Conant discuss French proposals if they have then been circulated. BRUCE."

Alphand lunched with me. His information as to what is going on at Marly is about 48 hours behind time. He is being kept in the dark by the Foreign Office and by the President's entourage as to what is transpiring there, which makes him unhappy. (I understand he will not be asked to accompany Mendès to Brussels.) I advised him to be patient and, if EDC passes, he will be top dog

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in the Quai d'Orsay in relation to it.

I went down to Versailles tonight. E., Jane Joyce and Sophie Sturgis had made a promenade in the Versailles park retracing the movements described by the two English ladies in "The Adventure". Today is the anniversary of the occasion on which the English women, about a half century ago, claimed to have seen Marie Antoinette and various Court personages and attendants. The three Americans had no such luck this afternoon.

Word came through this evening that Mendès had obtained a comfortable majority both on his economic reform program and on a delay in discussion of the Tunisian and Moroccan problems in the Assembly. This will strengthen his hand if he wishes to deal promptly with EDC.

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